



### PARADE GRAND MARSHALLS

ROBERTA & HAROLD KREIDER REPRESENT ALLIED COMMUNITY IN TODAY'S PRIDE FESTIVAL Read about them on page 5.

#### CALL FOR ARTISTS

Pennsylvania Diversity Network, Valley Gay Press, and the GLBT Infoline will be having a craft and fine art sale fundraiser on the weekend of November 18. Artists and quality crafters are encouraged to contact PDN to participate: 610-432-5449.



ROBERTA & HAROLD KREIDER

## Prom Queen Trevell" Cinnamort Christ Harris and EProm King Ian Wagner LePorshia Hankerson PRIZMPROM A SUCCESS!

HAVEN, the Youth Group for Teens who identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, & Allies, hosted the Prizm Prom on Sunday, May 22 at the Historic Hotel Bethlehem. Youth between the ages of 14-20 came from near & far to enjoy a dazzling night of dancing and fun.

HAVEN facilitators along with volunteers from Interweave, Renaissance, & GLOW served as chaperones. American Hairlines & PopMart donated decor including a lit-up, spinning mannequin wearing a rainbow gown & dubbed the "Prom Fairy Godmother." Elysium Fields donated fabulous floral centerpieces. (Full list of sponsors: www.prizmprom.com.).

But the real show was the youth arriving in everything from urban hip-hop to goth to tuxes & gowns. Allen's GSA helped out by making a rainbow balloon arch & rainbow keepsake candles. One student designed gorgeous scepters which were awarded to the Prom King & Queen and the Prom Drag King & Queen. A good time was had by all.

#### PA-GALA ENDORSES LINDA MINGER

There will be a Special Election on July 19 . PA-GALA reminds everyone to vote. It is not a primary. so anyone in the 131st District, who is registered for any (or no) party may vote. The reason for this special election is Pat Brown's move to State Senate. PA-GALA has inter-viewed and endorsed Linda Minger for State Rep. She has said she would support a state-wide civil rights law & oppose any efforts to add discrimination to the State Constitution.

SPECIAL ELECTION
JULY 19

### MCCLY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

To feature Gospel Group I.C.E. on July 16 and Ray Vester, August 27. See more information on page 8.

## PFLAG PICNIC AUG. 13

PFLAG will holits annual summer picnic at the Kohn's Farm near Macungie, PA. Saturday, August 13, noon to 4pm. PFLAG will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and sodas. Please bring a dish to share. RSVP to help organize pot luck items and get directions, at 610-967-5219 or email info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Bring family and friends and if possible, extra chairs. RSVP by August 8.



#### GLV PRIDE PRESIDENT CONSTANCE KRISTOFIK & PRIDE IN THE PARK CHAIR BRAD WENTZ

Valley Gay Press thanks and congratulates Constance and Brad for all their work & organization of this year's wonderful festival.





Dear WTA, Recently a friend asked me why GLBT activists are so against Abstinence Programs in sex education classes. Frankly, I had a hard time answering, I do happen to think that youth, including gay youth, are safer if they abstain from sex. How could anyone not agree with that? Signed, Just Say No.

Dear JSN, Before you endorse abstinence education programs, know more about them. So fa,r about 60 percent of the young people who signed the program's 'abstinence pledges' had broken them within a year. Half of the remainder, when quizzed, admitted to having oral sex, and half the entire group thought oral sex did not amount to breaking the pledge. Not only do 'virginity pledges' not work, in many cases they are actually harmful because those who sign them are less likely to use condoms or other contraceptives once they do start to have sex. These programs include a provision that no student should be told about condoms in any way, unless it is a discussion as to how they fail. There is no safer sex or birth control information for youth at all.

GLBT activists want our youth to have honest full information as to how to protect themselves. But GLBT community youth are left completely out of Abstinence Programs. They are told not to have sex until marriage, but they know that it is against the law for same-sex couples to marry in the US. They are not educated about their own sexuality, and in many public education programs, it is mandated that no mention of same sex relations is allowed. Even the vaguest answers to direct questions are forbidden.

There is good data that shows comprehensive sex education, that includes accurate information about safe sex -with abstinence information included - works, and works well. Let's be sure our youth are given all the information they need, not just moralistic opinions that ignore reality.

## VALLEY GAY PRESS WEB SITE: WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

Publisher, Managing Editor – Liz Bradbury Publisher, Editor – Patrica Sullivan Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey Ruby Zebu, Donnie and Earl Snyder Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Allentown, 610.967.5219 HTTP://www.eastern-papflag.org/
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater-- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV)
-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to:PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Phone: 610-432-5449
Email: liztrish@aol.comTo arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP Some restrictions apply



Dear Denise, My partner and our extended families' health care issues are completely stressing us out. We want to plan for our own health care and long -term care to not be a burden on our children. What should we consider? Signed, Health Care

Dear Blues, Let's start with HEALTH CARE -- Some questions you need to ask yourself: Do you have adequate health insurance? Are you familiar with what is and is not covered? Would you and your partner be willing to have an insurance professional, a financial planner or an eldercare attorney review your coverage to be sure it is sufficient? Have you purchased or considered a "medigap" policy to help cover expenses not covered by Medicare (Medicare is the government-provided health-care program for the elderly)? Have you thought about whether you have enough savings to cover a major medical expense? Who should make health decisions for you should you become incapacitated? Do you have a durable power of attorney for health care that names a partner, child or friend to make these decisions?

LONG TERM CARE -- What are your plans should you need long-term health care at home or in a nursing home? (Medicare does not cover most custodial care, whether in a nursing home or in your own home). Do you have long-term care insurance or have you considered buying such a policy? Would you expect to tap your savings to pay for long-term care? Are you comfortable spending virtually all your assets to qualify for state provided benefits through Medicaid? (Medicaid is a health program designed for the poor).

Would you expect your partner or children to provide some or all of your care in a health crisis? For how long? Do you expect to eventually move in with one or more of your children? Have you discussed this with them?

IN AN EMERGENCY -- Does your partner or one of your children have a complete list of your emergency contracts, including the names of doctors, financial advisors, attorneys, pharmacists, relatives and close friends? Does your partner or children have duplicate keys for your home, cars and safedepositbox?

How would bills be paid and financial matters handled should you suddenly become incapacitated? (Creating a durable power of attorney for your finances, and adding someone as a second signature on your financial accounts, can help others take over for you if necessary). Have you made up a list of your important papers and where they are located?

These are the first steps in planning for your current and future health care needs. Next month: Assets and Estate Planning. Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor for American Express Financial located at 5100 Tilghman Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.m.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information contained in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Diamonz Nightclub --1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar-- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St.

Monthly Direct Mail Distribution

Currently the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) mails
the Valley Gay Press to its members. To become a member of PA-GALA,
send \$25 for an individual membership or \$35 for a family membership to
PA-GALA PO Box 20825 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

VALLEY GAY PRESS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO VOLUNTEER: VGP@PADIVERSITY.ORG

HAVEN MEETINGS : every

Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or 610-868-2153. HAVEN needs facilitators & volunteers for meetings and prom planning. Facilitator training provided.

### PFLAG TIMES

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-papflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-papflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe -1st Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg, 570-620-1234, Meeting Dates: July 5, Picnicoin August 13, Allentown: Monroe: No meetings: July or August, Reading: No meetings: July or August.

"The incredible, shrinking Stevie Z will be appearing at the MooseLounge at

Allentown's Stonewall on Saturday June 25. Friday July 1, Friday July 29, and Aug. 12 & 26, from 9PM-Midnite. 1/2 of tips collected will be shared with PA-GALA. (LVGMC in August). So be sure be there at the grand piano. See new dates at Stevie page:http://steviezpa.tripod.com/ (http://steviezpa.tripod.com/).

VENDERS WANTED for FACT EVENT. "FORGOTTEN TREASURES" (YARD/GARAGE SALE) Pennsylvania Expo Center in South Whitehall. Saturday, June 25 & Sunday, June 26. Large Size Booths at Reasonable rates. Easy Access. Air Conditioned. Plenty of Free Parking. (Perfect for Non-Profit & Neighborhood Groups). For additional Information: 610-820-5519 or 610-360-6523 or 610-417-4384

#### **FACT SUMMER GAMES**

The FACT Summer Games will be held September 11, 2005 at Rainbow Mountain Resort, East Stroudsburg, PA. Twenty years of services helping the AIDS community.

### GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. These events are open to the GLBT community regardless of skill level. New members are always welcome. From May to October there is weekly tennis and volleyball. From September to May there are monthly gatherings for bowling, pinochle and game nights. Racquetball is offered year round, and snow sports in the winter.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org,

or email: Info@gloss.org.

#### PA-GALA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS If you want a reason to go to fun GLBT

events coupled with an any easy way to meet new people, then get involved in PA-GALA's efforts to get out the vote & register voters. Come to the next PA-GALA meeting at 7pm on Thursday, July 7 at MCCLV, PA-GALA has regular 7pm to meetings at MCCLV on the first Thursday of every month. (For directions, see www.mcclv.org or call 610-709-8800.) If you can't make it to the meeting, but would still like to volunteer, please email Allyson Diane Hamm, LV Coordinator at allysondiane@hotmail.com or call PA-GÁLAat 610-863-0227.

#### VOLUNTEER **OPPORTUNITY** INFOLINE - VGP

Want to support and give back" to your GLBT community? Why not volunteer for the GLBT Infoline telephone help line? Or volunteer for this paper, The Valley Gay Press or for PA Diversity Network. There are opportunities for everyone. Call 610-4322-5449, or stop by the PDN, Valley Gay Press, booth at the festival.

## SWITZERLAND HAS PASSED SAME-SEX UNION RIGHTS

LV AIDS-WALK Reminder from FACT: Lehigh Valley AIDS-Walk will be Oct. 2, beginning in the Bethlehem Rose Garden. Registration: 11:30 am. Walk begins: 1pm. Watch VGP for more information.

AL-ANON AT MCC

A new GLBT Al-Anon meeting in Allentown starts June 11 on Saturdays at 12 pm. at the Metropolitan Community Church. For information can call Chris: 484-767-3951 or Terry: 610-547-1125. \*Al-Anon Family Groups are relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems.

#### To sign up for the newsletter go to the GAY DAY AT KNOEBELS Saturday, August 13, is this years 11th Annual Gay Day At Knoebel's Grove

Amusement Park. The picnic is held at

Pavilion T-10. Registration begins at 11am. The covered dish lunch and raffle begin at 3:00 PM. Bring a covered dish to share. Hot dogs and tableware will be provided. Questions & directions: Contact: Steve & Robert: 610-821-0578. Russ & Rick: 610-379-9592 or email kikosdad@ptd.net or email Mike & Mike: mike.escobar@ppfa.org. REMINDER: Gay Day At Knoebels is not sponsored by Knoebels Grove.

INTERWEAVE EVENTS

Interweave is planning an Ice Ceam Social in August & a picnic &other social events in the summer & fall. Meetings are held 3rd Sundays of the month at noon-ish (after service) at the UUCLV. You do not have to be a UUCLV member to attend For more info, see the updated contact list on page 4, or stop by Interweave's booth at the festival. LARAMIE PROJECT@ ESU

"The Laramie Project" stands alone as a revealing testament to the strength of the human spirit and as evidence of the continuing power of theatre. "Laramie" is being presented from August 25-28 at 8pm nightly at the Abeloff Convocation Center at East Stroudsburg University and is being produced by PFLAG of NEPA & PALS, in association with the Omicron Theatre Project. The event is hosted by SOUL (Sexual Orientation and University Life) at ESU. Tickets for sale at the door. More information and updates:

www.geocities.com/justincharleslee. SHORT STORIES @ MCC MCCLV is kicking off its Singles

Workshop with Short Stories and Coffee. June 24, 7pm features Miriam Lavandier reading from "Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian

Etiquette" by Meryl Cohn. 7

### CALENDAR4

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22 nd a nd Tilgh man Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa,610-435-3775 ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,

AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK-see FACT

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
AII Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@

entermail.net
BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social
GroupSocial Singles and Couples social events
berksgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360 CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-

432-8943, <. civictheater, com>

CUUPS -- Covenenat of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uuclv\_cuups@yahoogroups.com. Eniama Players -- gacres@prolog.net

equal@agere.com FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gaydar Magazine

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLÖRA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org 610-434-2966.

GLOW-at PPL

HAVENGLBT Youth Group of the UUCLVcall:610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"
Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office:

610-432-5449info@padiversity.org
INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV.
3rd Sundays... Interweave\_UUCLV@yahoo
groups...com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.
LVGMC -- Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus,
email:info@lvmgc.org, <a href="ewww.uygmc.org">ewww.lvgmc.org</a>,
610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United

Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights 4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 James Halleman@aol.com MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street.

Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehigh valley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800 NCC- Northampton Community College GLB

Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943 Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College P A-Diversity Network - 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - PA Gay And Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

610-663-0227 www.pa-gala.org
PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519
PFLAG LV Parents Families & Friends of
Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church
Allentown 610.967.5219 HTTP://www.eastern-

pa-pflag.org/

### JUNE 2005 PRIDE MONTHESTEYAL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 M PFLAG HAVEN LOGGERHEAD		3 MCC Togames Yardsale	LWGMC Concert GLOSS
5 PRIDE Pageant WDIY DUCLY HMFFGLOSS	6 LVGMC	7 GLOSS	8 HAVEN	9 GLOSS RAA	10 Stevie Z	PRIDE Pageant
12 MF WDIV MCC GLOSS	13 LVGMC	14 GLOSS	15 HAVEN	16 RAA GLOSS PRIDE Benefit	17 MCC Games	18 GLOSS MCC Concert
19 PRIDE FESTIVA GLOSS	L	21 GLOSS	22 HAVEN	23 RAAGLOSS	24 MCC Singles & Stories	25GLOSSDIY FACT BENEFIT Stevie Z
2MCGLOSS MSGCWJP MYCFACT MCCBENEI	27National H Testing Da	98 GLOSS	29 haven	30 RAA GLOSS		

**JULY 2005** 

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 MCC Games Stevie Z	2 GLOSS WDIY
3MCOUCLY HMFF WDIY GLOSS	4 LVGMC	5 GLOSS LV PFLAG	6 HAVEN M PFLAG		8 GLOSS Bowling	9 WDIY GLOSS
10 UUCLV GLOSS MCC HMFF WDIY	11 LVGMC	12 GLOSS	13 <sub>HAVEN</sub>	14 RAA GLOSS DE ->	15	MCC Concert
17 Interweave MCC WDIY UUCLV	LVGMC	19 GLOSS Special Election	20 HAVEN	21 GLOSS	22	23 WDIY GLOSS
24 HMEEss UUCLV WDIY 31		26 GLOSS	27 HAVEN	28 RAA GLOSS	29 Stevie Z	MCC Picnic

**AUGUST 2005** 

Potluck

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA LVGMC	2 GLOSS LV PFLAG	3 M PFLAG HAVEN	DA-CALA	MCC Games	6 WDIYGLOSS
MC WDIY HMF6LOSS	8 LVGMC RAA	9 GLOSS	10 HAVEN	11 GLOSS RAA	12 Stevie Z	Knoebels
14 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	15 RAA LVGMC	16 GLOSS	17 HAVEN	18 RAA GLOSS	9 MCC Games GLOSS Campi	20 <sub>WDIV</sub> GLOSS
21 Interweave GLOSS MGC WDIY HMFF	22 RAA LVGMC	23GLOSS	24 HAVEN	25 <sub>RAA</sub> GLOSS Laramie Proje		27GLOSEDIY MCC Concert
28HMFF UUCLV CUUPS MCCWDIY MCCWDIY	29 LVGMC	30 GLOSS	31 HAVEN			

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@pridegly.org>, <www.pridely.org> QuEST - Student group at Lafavette College Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, FA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. At 16th and Turner Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc...

Meets at MCCLV renly.org Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College

Organization 610.821.3244 Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219 Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610,758,5973

Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming. gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St. Coaldale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. **Rev Tom Cormier** 

T.O. - Theatre Outlet-, Allentown, 610-820-9270. Unity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417 UUCL V - Unitarian Universalist Church I V 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652. VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, IVGP@padiversotyorg VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA- Gay And Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@ Wachovia.com WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat, 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 610-694-

8100 88 SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

LYGMC REHEARSALS - MONDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -TUES/THURS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL -TUES & SATS
GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG - 1ST WEDS
PA-GALA - 1ST THURSDAYS
MCC GAME NIGHTS-1ST & 3RD SATS
AL-ANON - SATS
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS & PINOCHLE / BOWLING ENDS DURING SUMMER
READING PFLAG NO SUMMER MEETINGS

JUNE 19 - PRIDE IN THE PARK FESTIVAL & PARADE
JUNE 19 - GLOSS
VOLLEYBALL DEMOS
JUNE 24 - MCC SINGLES WKSHP
JUNE 25 - STORIES & COFFEE
JUNE 25 - FACT BENEFIT
JUNE 25 - STEWEZ
JUNE 26 - BERK'S GM TO NY PRIDE
JUNE 27 NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY
JULY 1 - STEWEZ
JULY 5 - LY PFLAG
JULY 7 - PA GALA MTG
JULY 13 - 31 - CANDIDE @ MUHLENBURG
JULY 19 - SPECIAL ELECTION
JULY 19 - SPECIAL ELECTION
JULY 29 - STEWEZ
JULY 30 - MCC PICNIC
AUG 13 - LY PFLAG PICNIC
AUG 13 - LY PFLAG PICNIC
AUG 13 - GAYDAY @ KNOEBELS
AUG 19 - GLOSS CAMPING
AUG 25 - 28 - LARAMIE @ ESU
AUG 27 - MCC CONCERT
SEPT 9 - HEDWIG @ TO
SEPT 11 - FACT SUMMER GAMES
OCT 2 - LY AIDS-WALK
NOV 18 - PDN ARTICRAFT SALE FESTIVAL & PARADE JUNE 19 - GLOSS

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO

CHANGE! TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449 VGP@PADIVERSITY.ORG

PRIDE GLY
2005 FESTIVAL, GRAND MARSHALLS & ENTERTAINMENT In this 12th annual festival, GLV Pride organizers look to unite the GLBTI community and

allies through its inclusive parade and programming initiatives. Pride in the Park, Parade Grand Marshals are long time allies Roberta and Rev. Harold Kreider, passionate advocates for justice for all people marginalized by the church and by society. Beginning in 1998. Roberta has published three books which include over one hundred faith stories from the GLBTA community. Roberta will conduct a book signing shortly following the opening ceremonies.

Grand Marshals, Roberta and Rev. Harold Kreider, and Pride in the Park Headliner, AMBER, show that allies come from all directions. Pride Vice-President and 2005 Pride in the Park Chairman, Brad Wentz states, "By Pride recognizing our progressive allied supporters, we continue to create a vital dialogue and inclusive position in the overall

ENTERTAINMENT: On Stage: Host, Mr. Murray Hill, the hardest working middle-aged man in show business. Zen for Primates, eclectic LV favorite, Alix Dobkin, legendary lesbian activist & folk artist. PITP's headliner Amber, diva and dance music sensation. Namoli Brennet, gender-variant, indie-pop, Ricardo Alvarado, Latin songwriter & dancer. The Pride Gallery features GLBTI community art. For kids and families at Kidspace: free face painting, Crayola crafts, live performances by: Meet & Greet Mouse from "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie, sponsered by Barnes & Noble at 2:00 -2:30 and Caren Leonard children's folksinger/songwriter at 3:15-4:00. Kidspace is presented by Aetna. Cedar Beach Sand Courts: GLOSS Volleyball, Live Pride Personals - meet a same-sex-match. The Pride Pub, presented by Banko Beverage and Miller Brewing Co, will serve cold beverages for those 21 and up. At 6:00 under the Metropolitan Community Church tent: An Interfaith Service of Worship, conducted by MCCLV and All Together Now. All Day: Pride Bingo, drag performances, local talent, GLBTI activism, merchants and artisans, business services, community organizations, and a variety of food and beverage

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

BETTER Is it only gay people who are decent role models for our kids these days? I mean Ellen DeGeneres just won two emmys for her hilarious family friendly talk show. Carson Kressley is on a "PG" rated show that my niece and nephew love. Melissa Etheridge is battling with CA and is sounding better than ever. Elton John is marrying longtime partner David Furnish in December. In recent years a gaggle of gay entertainers have won Oscar, Tony and Grammy, Marc Cherry wrote the year's biggest TV hit, Desperate Housewives (which gave us a gay teen kiss!) Rupaul is introducing a doll in her likeness (Ru-doll?) k.d. lang still has the best voice in music. And Rosie O'Donnell, well, there's always next year for Rosie. On average we are spiritual beings who care about the struggles of others and believe that if there is a God (s)he wouldn't adhere to religious dogma, but love all beings equally and be saddened by the wars waged and rights denied in her/his name. ... We also throw one hell of a party.

Meanwhile, let's take a gander at some straight celebs. Tom Cruise went off his rocker and onto the furniture on Oprah, who by the way keeps telling people they should change, change, change. Just because she found her size 6 body doesn't mean everyone wants to. Paris, Nicole, Lindsay and Jessica are all skin and bones. Brittney is so trailer trash she may be real. As much as I love her music, Gwen Stefani's disc isn't much for young girls to listen to (and she dresses like the millennium's version of Cyndi Lauper). Apparently cheating is okay if you're beautiful (Brad Pitt & Angelina Jolie). And marriage is not to be entered into seriously (oh, jeez take your pick of recently separated or divorced stars). Which Bennifer is pregnant? Exactly how many Colin Farrell Jr's are running around out

heathens or deities. The Bush administration truly believes it speaks for the Catholic Almighty(the only almighty). I do admit to liking the twinkle in Laura Bush's eye. That's a Bush I wouldn't mind having for dinner. Let's do the math. 100 points for the gays (totally random, like their choices usually are-Hello Ohio!) 25 points for the non-gays (totally based on my own opinion and nothing scientific-hey, it works for the Supreme Court). 100 vs.25. The only reasonable conclusion I can come to is that Gay people are better. Okay, Okay. Maybe "better" isn't the right word.

there in this unsuspecting world? Do we even have to discuss Courtney Love raising poor little Francis Bean? On average, the hets who are getting press are either acting like

No, wait, yes it is. We are finally better. We have been denied, discriminated against, harassed, mauled (that part I liked), beaten, tortured and murdered throughout history and still are today, all over the world. But we are better for those who have come before us. The men, women and trans people who have lived and died because they were (perceived) different. While you're partying at the local Pride fest, remember those individuals who have helped make this a better life for you and me. And the next time you vote, remember those who still make this a struggle and screw them out of office. 3 1/2 years. Sigh. Happy

Pride, Have a Cosmo for me!!!!!! Smooches, Steve PS: Hey Everybody! Pick up the new issue of Gaydar Magazine at our booth and get it autographed by headliner Amber, who is interviewed in the new issue!!



#### PROUDPARENTS

There is no better time to talk about being proud gay parents than

during Gay Pride season. We are full of pride... "gay dad pride". Some may wonder what gay pride is all about. To us it's all about being gay, being out, and living our life to its fullest, attaining our goals and pursuing our dreams. Isn't the pursuit of happiness one of our constitutional rights? Our happiness is found right within our family, our immediate family as well as our extended family.

Growing up we never would have thought we would create the family we have now. We never thought it would be possible to be

this happy and this proud being gay. But it is.

Coming out to our families and friends was the best thing we could have done. Although it was scary to disclose such a very personal piece of information, that our families and friends already probably suspected, it was the most important step we could make in securing their support. Coming out allowed us to begin to pursue our dreams. One dream was to become parents. As gay males, that dream was possible through adoption. Once we began the process of adopting our son, we were required to go through a home study, making it crucial to be out to the adoption agency as well, especially since we planned on having an open adoption. References were needed from non-family members. The cooperation of family members was needed in the presentation of a pictorial biography.

We had to market ourselves with a focus on our family life as the selling point. We apparently did a very good job, (many thanks to our family and friends) as we were selected by a birth mother to raise her newborn son. When we asked her why she chose a gay male couple, she told us she just felt in her heart that we were the right ones and that she would be happy for her son to have two fathers. She did not make her choice based on our sexual orientation. Apparently, she could see that had as much impact on our potential as parents as our hair color. Maybe it was our honesty, along with our desire to be parents that touched her. Or maybe it was all the positive input she received from our family and friends, who were as anxious as we were to welcome Lucas into

Being proud got us this far and continues to strengthen our family. Our son gets to enjoy gatherings with immediate and extended family, public outings, church services, swimming lessons, dining out, visits with his godparents and grandparents, walks in the neighborhood, playtime with other children, and quality time at home with his dads, who just want to give him all the love they can. Being proud gay men helped us adopt our son. Being proud gay parents is allowing us to give our son the best we can.

Interweave hosted an amazing 1-day Retreat on May 7 at UUCLV. with people coming from all over PA & beyond. Several came to learn how to start GLBT youth groups in their area. There were local city employees & health care workers, as well as ordinary folk who were looking to expand their diversity knowledge. Others came to learn how to protect their families. Some were simply interested in connecting with others or their own spirituality. Some great spiritual discussions came about with future events being planned as a result of the discussion that was started. There was inspiring rhythm & drumming, & some great food on top of that! Many thanks to all who attended, volunteered, cooked, cleaned, & presented!

### SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner

OVE & THE DEWEY

Cora the Co-Worker and I were talking over lunch and I say," I'm looking for a romance." She says, "Go to the library, they sell 'em there ten for two dollars."

Not exactly what I meant but I thought what the heck, I'll check it out. I approached the reference desk.

"May I help you?" asked Marian the Librarian. "Yes, do you know where I can find hot guys?"

Pedantically she said, "Hot Guys? Do you know the author or the call number?"

Realizing I wasn't getting anywhere I thought I'd scout out this place myself. Periodicals, audiovisuals, microfiche; where

do guys hang out?

I followed a promising looking guy into the stacks. He looked at some gourmet cooking books and then some books on international travel, but then he checked out the autobiography of Pope John Paul II and I figured we don't play on the same team so. I moved on to another dude perusing the aisles. He spent half an hour in the Broadway musical CDs and then looked at some "How to" books from the mixology/cocktails section but then finally checked out some books on Keynesian Economics. While not necessarily a straight subject, definitely a tedious one, so I moved on. A third guy looked at gardening and interior design and I thought I finally found a real lead but then he turned his attention to a book on drag racing. I looked over his shoulder expecting to see pictures of Sylvia Silverberg, Kitty Mame Dietrich and Pearl E. Gates in track suits but it was something completely different. I figured are we not only not sitting in the same pew, we don't even go to the same church.

I went to the library looking for a guy with some wood, but all I found was a newspaper on a stick. So Mr Right if you're out there, my love life is way overdue and at fifteen cents a day, it

starts to add up.

Happy Pride Day Chipmunk Readers!!

#### BERKS GAY MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

For gay men (over 18), singles and couples, to meet and make new friends. Upcoming event: June 26, NYC gay pride

parade and street fair and dinner in the village.

The Berks County Gay Men's Social Group has been in existence for 2 years. What started out with just 5 guys now numbers over 400. It is a way for gay men to meet and get to know each other outside of the bar scene. The group holds 3 or more events per month and draws participants from Berks County, Lancaster, Lehigh County and as far as Scranton and Harrisburg. For more info email: berksgmsg@aol.com

#### MUHLENBERG PRESENTS CANDIDE

Muhlenberg Summer Music Theare presents CANDIDE, July \* 31, Empie Theatre, Baker Center for the Arts, Muhlenberg College. 484-664-3333. The brilliance of Leonard Bernstein's musical score is a perfect match for the genius of Voltaire's iconic philosophy. Enormously funny and wildly irreverent, Candide embraces the ironies of a world in disarray. Tickets available at www.summer broadway.org.

DON'T FORGET THE SPECIAL 131 STATE REPRESENTATIVE **DISTRICT ELECTION - JULY 19** GLBT VOTES COULD DECIDE IT



## LIZ OUT LOUD BE HONEST, By Liz Bradburg

A new scholarly work titled The Intimate Life of Abraham Lincoln, has spawned reviews in every major publication with titles like, "Was Lincoln Gay?" I haven't read the book, but I'd like to. (Trish: Holiday Gift Suggestion). Articles indicate

that it's a careful and minute consideration of every period piece of writing by and about Lincoln. Numerous facts, that scholars confirm, underscore Lincoln's gay sexual orientation:

1. \*Pro: Lincoln slept in the same bed with Joshua Speed for four years (yes, you read that right, they slept in the same bed, even though they could afford larger quarters). 2. \*Pro: He had an emotional breakdown when Speed left town. 3. \*Pro: There was also Capt. David Derickson who, in Mrs. Lincoln's absence, frequently slept with Abe in the same bed at the summer White House, 4, \*Pro: Lincoln had a shaky relationship with his wife Mary Todd, she proposed.

The the far right's arguments against Lincoln being gay, or at least being bisexual are: 1. \*Con: The word gay wasn't used in those days. (But remember, Walt Whitman was writing gay poetry during Lincoln's lifetime. Walt's on our team, no one disputes that.) 2. \*Con: If Lincoln was really gay he wouldn't have been as honest as he was about sleeping in the same bed with Speed. (Um, we are talking "Honest Abe" here.) 3. \*Con: And perhaps the best provable argument against: He did have children with his wife. (Although there are plenty of gay and bisexual fathers in the world).

Admitting and teaching about Lincoln's sexual orientation is not revisionist history. Way back in 1920, Lincoln historian Carl Sandburg likened Abe to "a streak of lavender, and spots soft as May violets." In fact, it is revisionist history to ignore and strike from history books the intimate same-sex relationships of Lincoln's' life.

Does it matter if Lincoln was gay? Yes it does!!! Wouldn't a young oppressed gay student, taunted in middle school by intolerant bullies, feel more than a little boost to his or her selfesteem by learning that the person many consider the greatest historical figure in American History, was queer? Abraham Lincoln, as a gay role model for gay youth? Yes, that matters. Let's teach our children that one of the greatest figures in history, was part of our community and let's let the pride of that, and all our other GLBT heroes course through our souls.

Quote by Henry Whitney speaking to William Herndon in 1865 -- "I have heard [Lincoln] say over and over again about sexual contact: 'It is a harp of a thousand strings.'

TRISH'S COLUMN

BY TRISH & LIZ By Patricia Sullivan We are friends with a young lesbian couple who graduated from Muhlenburg College a few years ago. Both are bright, creative and ambitious. More importantly, they each have an incredible social conscience and the results of

their work locally have made a real difference in the lives of people in need. They are not only fun to talk to and spend time with, they give us hope for the future.

Sadly for us, they will be leaving Pennsylvania soon. The one who has been working for a couple of years creating programing that supports diversity and helps deter bullying in local schools, will be entering a Ph.D. program at Vanderbilt University, where she will be fully funded for 5 years by a Javitts Scholarship to study lesbian poetry and queer theory. Her partner, who is just finishing a Community Fellows Master's degree at Lehigh, and who has been working on development for a community not-forprofit that provides inner city services, has networked a couple of significant employment opportunities in Nashville, near Vanderbilt, so they can be together and she can continue her career. She will undoubtedly pursue her Ph.D. in the future as well.

We will be sad to see them leave. But while we will hope that after they finish their studies in Tennessee, they might return to the Lehigh Valley, we also must look at the state of Pennsylvania objectively for the futures of two young lesbians for whom we care deeply. Though the Lehigh Valley social climate is generally good for GLBT people (certainly better than your average red state), Pennsylvania not only does not support any legal recognition of same-sex relationships, it doesn't even have state-wide anti-discrimination protection for employment and housing. It's more than likely an effort to pass a State Constitutional Amendment banning civil unions and marriage for same-sex couples will come up in Harrisburg in the next two years and there are legislators who are trying to overturn the State's second parent adoption ruling.

The fact that the city of Allentown has one of the most progressive anti-discrimination laws in the United States is not enough. When these young women finish their advanced degrees, they will be able to get jobs anywhere they want to live. They will be sought after by cutting edge employers, in the same way Vanderbilt University worked to encourage them to come there. They will be the ones to choose. Why would they choose to live and work in a state that denies their family equal civil rights? We feel about these young women, as though they were our daughters. How could any parent want less for their children

than full legal recognition? When they are ready, they should have the right to marry, to support each other with employment benefits, to make medical and financial decisions for each other, and to automatically inherit from each other's estate. There are places in the US and Canada that can give them all or some of those rights. But not Pennsylvania, not now anyway. There may be other reasons why they may ultimately choose to move back to Pennsylvania; jobs, friends, family. But as a state, the draconian policies of PA are stacked to cause these women to slip away to another place that welcomes them. It is the State's loss, and our community's loss as well.

TWO MCC EVENTS

MCC's annual picnic will be held from noon - 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 30 at the Emmaus Community Park.

MCC's Children's Ministry hosts a Monthly Potluck the last Sunday of each month after MCCLV's morning worship service. Please bring a side dish to share & beverage. For Info:1610-709-8800 or: info@mcclv.org

Brain drain: A State's loss of the creative class, particularly highly educated young adults. According to the "Brookings Report," PA ranks 2nd among states for citizens over 65, 9th in the largest percentage loss of young people aged 25-34 and had the 5th largest out of the state migration of residents of any state in the country. Only 22.4% of Pennsylvanians possess a bachelor's degree. PA ranks 30th nationwide on this key indicator. Interestingly the Brookings Report cites sprawl and urban decline as a factor "hindering the state's ability to create the kinds of places that attract critical "human capital" and reverse a "brain drain." But economist Richard Florida author of "The Rise of the Creative Class" has said that regions, companies, and countries that are open, inclusive, and tolerant are economic powerhouses. He goes on to say that "the presence of a large and vibrant gay population is an extremely strong indicator that a region is open, inclusive, or tolerant." To put it in the framework of Sullivan's three T's of economic development: Tolerance helps to attract talent, which helps to create technology."

The "brain drain" in Pennsylvania it is in the legislature. They are operating on so few of the "little gray cells" that they are unable to grasp the need to legislate civil rights for GLBT citizens.



1. TV Land's recent documentary-ish show about sitcom gay sensibility was titled: A. Lavender Lens B. Tickled Pink 3. Triangle TV 4. 10% Plus

2 Appearing in the pilot episode, "Coco the gay cook" was originally slated to be a regular character on what TV sitcom? A. The Golden Girls B. Alice C. Friends

3. Which local activist recently sat in an ice cream freezer for David Letterman? A. Allyson Hamm B.Scott Laubner C. Shawn Mazzata D. Steve Libby

4. During the naked hot tub scene, what does Gabrielle answer Xena, when Xena asks, "Are you sitting on the soap?"A. "Of course not." B. "I dare you to find out." C. "I was wondering what that was." D. "Would you like me to wash your back?"

5. According to actors on the show the producers of Xena Warrior Princess

A. Knew the show had a big lesbian following. Never knew the show had a lesbian following

C. Adding teasing plot lines to the show to encourage a lesbian audience.

D. Frequently tried to de-gay the show

6. Those interviewed on TV Land agreed that was the top gay TV drama. A. Knots Landing B. Dallas C. Falcon Crest D. Dynasty

7. Who said to San Diegds Gay & Lesbian Times, "My stepdaughter is gay She and her partner have been together in Chicago for 10 years; they have a wonderful relationship. I adore her She's been my stepdaughter since she was 9, so we have a very good family relationship." A. Betty White B. Mary Tyler Moore C. Judith Light D. Alan Alda

A Swiss ballot question for all Swiss voters was forced by a religious party that objected to the Swiss Parliament's approval of marriage-like rights for gay couples. This month, Swiss voters overwhelming voted to \_ those rghts:A.approve B. disapprove

9. As of 6/12/05 how many Fortune 50 (50 top companies) include sexual orientation in their antidiscrimination policies? A. 18 B. 25 C. 35 D. 49

10. The largest employer in the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Valley Hospital, include sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination policy A. does B does not

1.B 2.A 3.C 4. C 5.A+C 6.D 7.A 8.A 9.D 10.B

### HEDWIG @ THEATRE OUTLET

The Theatre Outlet production of Hedwig and The Angry Inch by John Cameron Mitchell & Stephen Trask, directed by Beth Schachter, is coming September 9 \* 24, to The SilkWerks. Internationally ignored song stylist Hedwig Schmidt is a hardcore East German rock 'n roll goddess who also happens to be the victim of a botched sex-change operation. Part rock concert, part drag show, part bittersweet memoir, Hedwig and the Angry Inch is a musical for anyone who's been handed an inch when they deserve a mile. Email admin@theatre outlet.org to participate, see www.theatreoutlet.orgfor audition details and tickets.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected rom unfair discrimination

rom unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, tage, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

**GLBT Infoline** 

PA-GALA Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gav Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach The Unitarian

Universalis Church LV

GLOSS

**LEPOCO** 

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater Congregation Am Haskalah

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

**OUOTE #1** 

""Either this auy believes his party is not serious and is totally Machiavellian in its position [on gay rights] or you know, as David Brock said in his great book 'Blinded bythe Right, 'there's some sort of self-loathing or something

-- Bill Clinton after key far-right Republican political consultant Arthur Finkelstein married his boyfriend in Massachusetts. Finkelstein has worked to elect a host of very anti-gay Republicans, including Jesse Helms.

QUOTE #2

"Describing sexual orientation as an "alternative lifestyle" is highly politicized, outdated, and inaccurate language that can alienate LGBT youth at a time when they are particularly vulnerable. By terming sexual orientation a

lifestyle," HHS is discussing it as a matter of choice, which is contrary to the vast majority of scientific evidence. Sexual orientation is not a lifestyle".

-- HRC on inappropriate language on the US Health and Human Services Web Site

QUOTE#3

"It might not feel this way, but we are winning. The constitutional amendments [banning same-sex marriage] are an act of desperation. We are winning the discussion. and they know it. They are using brute power to keep the discrimination around, to enshrine it for a generation. If we do not give up, they will not have the last word."

-- Freedom to Marry Executive Director Evan Wolfson to the Michigan gay newspaper Between The Lines.

#### SINGLES QUIZ FROM MCC

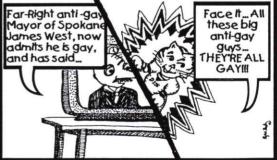
What place are you MOSTlikely to meet your lifetime partner?

A. In Antarctica B. At a Dance C. Via Satellite D. Through the Yellow Pages E. 1-900-Amate4u F. In a Ceramics Class G. None of the above The answer is "G" – find out where you are most

likely to meet your lifetime partner at MCCIV's Singles Workshop!

Friday, June 24, 7 p.m. at the church. Enjoy pizza, fellowship and get a Christian perspective on GLBT dating presented by MCCLV pastor Beth Goudy Free and open to the public. To register, please call 610-709-8800 or e-mail info@mcclvorg





The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

# YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE GLBT COMMUNITY!



## LIST A GLBT-FRIENDLY BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION

Do you know a GLBT friendly health or legal professional, organization or business that should be listed on PDN's website referral list of "PDN Certified GLBT-Friendly" service providers? If so, stop by the PDN booth to fill out a listing form, or do it on-line at wwwpadiversity.org.

## VOLUNTEER TO ANSWER THE INFOLINE



The Infoline needs trained phone answerers. Training is provided. The Infoline can be call forwarded to your phone. Stop by the PDN booth or call 610-432-5449 to volunteer or for more information. (Criminal background check required.)



# WRITE FOR, HELP CIRCULATE & SUPPORT THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

STOP BY THE PDN BOOTH, CALL 610-432-5449
OR EMAIL VGP@PADIVERSITY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

## **VOLUNTEER WITH PDN**



Volunteers are needed to help with programming, events, mailings and fundraising.

VISIT THE PDN BOOTH, CALL: 610-432-5449, EMAIL: INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG OR LOG ON TO

WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG